

# REWU MAGAZINE

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- REWU joins Global March for Child Labour campaign
- REWU leaders enhanced knowledge on ECD Centers operations
- Renewed push for better working terms of miners
- Rwamagana: REWU representatives trained on ECDs ahead of operationalizing them at the mining and quarrying working places

## REWU joins Global March for Child Labour campaign



### AFRICA VIRTUAL MARCH AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

COMING TOGETHER IN 2022  
FOR THE CHILDREN IN AFRICA!

To see children in school;  
not at work!

## MARCH WITH US

From January, 10th 2022, the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) has joined African Virtual March against Child Labour campaign to see children at school not at work. The campaign focuses on a call to action towards getting children back to school, given that education is an effective social vaccine against child labour.

The 5th Global Conference on Child Labour which is to be held in South Africa (May 2022) is an opportunity to mobilise support for this call and make it happen.

This campaign led by Global March against Child Labour, with the support from civil society actors, public institutions, influencers and others in and outside Africa will also invite the ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance and South Africa President, as a host country of Global Conference on Child labour, to take urgent steps to address child labour.

Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, the Secretary General of REWU explained that "joining this campaign is to emphasize on REWU's continuous role in campaigning against Child Labour."

He added that among the duties of REWU, it has to work with union members, its partners, community, security

organs and leaders at all levels to combat any form of child labour.

REWU is aware that Children under the age of 18 also dropped out of school and came to look for work in the companies that had no legal documents, and this is where REWU also decided to put more focus in order to campaign against Child labour.

Some children accompany their parents at working place in order to increase the production for increasing the family income, and other children are looking after the babies in the quarries, sugar cane, cross border business, road business, etc.... REWU fights for eliminating those kinds of child labor.

While that situation is similar across the world, also note that millions of children in Africa are toiling in child labour, at the cost of their health, education and childhood.

Sub-saharan Africa has 87 million child labourers, i.e, and more children in child labour than in rest of the world combined.

These children are from vulnerable families and their socio-economic



conditions have exacerbated since the COVID 19 pandemic started. It is everyone's duty to fight against this problem as it hinders Child's development.

The Campaign against African Child Labour will conclude on 14th March 2022.

# REWU leaders enhanced knowledge on ECD Centers operations



As the Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) continues to focus on tackling child labor and promoting child rights in the Quarry and Mining Sector, REWU leaders continue to increase their knowledge in a variety of fields including the operationalization of Early Childhood Development Centers that are starting to be established at working place in the Mines and Quarrying companies across the country.

The initiative is geared up by Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), UNICEF Rwanda, NCDCA and REWU. Therefore, in order to implement the ECDs and monitor their performance, it is important that the participating agencies are provided with knowledge on the functioning of the ECDs to increase the capacity of the program implementation Monitors.

In an interview with Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, REWU Secretary General, the Trade Union is currently working with mine & quarry companies, and various partners to build the capacity among Trade union leaders who are the union focal persons at companies to better understand their responsibilities in the operation of the ECDs at working place.

He argues that the idea of advocating for the Establishment of ECDs in the mining and quarry companies was developed in order to protect the rights of the Children and women mothers while at work so that the child could find a place to stay and be cared for. "Before, we used to face some cases of children dropping out of school to take care of their siblings or work for increasing the income from

production of their parents, while their parents were at work either in Mining, Quarrying, businesses such as laying bricks, sugar cane businesses, cross-border business, etc.... Although this challenge still exists in some companies that violate the law prohibiting that, we are confident that the efficient operation of ECDs will lead to a complete eradication of the problem in the Mining and Quarrying Sector." Eng. Mutsindashyaka said.

He added that this is also part of ending child labor to promote the education of children in Rwanda. On the other hand, Eng. Mutsindashyaka finds that it is time for all activities that deprive the child of his or her rights, including the right to education, either in Rwanda or in Africa be completely eradicated.

He revealed that "REWU is currently working with various stakeholders in a campaign for fighting worst form Child labour that could prevent him or her from attending school." Eng. Mutsindashyaka calls upon every one to fight against worst form child labor" and thanks the commitment and many different actions of Rwanda Government to eradicated child labor.

In addition REWU has joined virtual March against Child Labour campaign that focuses on a call to action towards getting children back to school, given that education is an effective social vaccine against child labour. This march is part of the upcoming the 5th Global Conference on Child Labour which is to be held in South Africa (May 2022). This campaign is led by Global March against Child Labour, in collaboration with the civil society actors, trade union activists, public institutions, influencers and others in and outside of Africa.

**March  
Against  
Child Labour**

**All Children must  
be at school**

**GLOBAL MARCH**  
Against Child Labour  
Contra el Trabajo Infantil  
Contre le Travail des Enfants

**REWU**  
RWANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION

# Renewed push for better working terms of miners



Activists have said that the government must intervene in addressing issues like lack of employment contracts, pension and a minimum wage that affects the livelihoods of thousands of employees in mining sites.

According to Andre Mutsindashyaka, the Secretary-General of Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU), workers in mines are paid depending on the minerals extracted, which means they may go days without pay until they get to the minerals.

“There are different activities done before they get to mineral resources, even though there might be no production on a given day, that employee deserves to be paid for work done,” he said.

Mutsindashyaka said that because there is still no minimum wage, the capacity of an employee in mining sites to negotiate their wage is still low.

Narcisse Dushimimana, the Head of Mining Regulation and Inspection Department at Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB) highlighted that lack of employment contracts leads to cross-cutting issues in different sectors.

“We believe that everyone has the right to be paid, but not having a minimum wage is a problem faced by other sectors as well. We all know that as of now, the valid minimum wage does not match with our current economic realities,” he said.

The national minimum inter-professional wage stands at Rwf100 per day for ordinary working persons. It was set in the 1970s.

While the ministerial order that establishes the national minimum inter-professional wage is not yet passed, Dushimimana said, “We continue to encourage every

employer to fully pay the agreed salary with the worker. No one works for free... that would be slavery.”

He commended mining companies and cooperatives for performing well in terms of providing insurance for their employees, however, he also pointed out the issue of pension.

“What we are doing is to request all companies and cooperatives to enroll their workers under the Ejo Heza pension scheme, as the minimum amount for contribution in the scheme is little,” he added.

Francois Ntakiyimana, Executive Secretary of COTRAF, the confederation of workers' unions in the country said that many employers don't want to give employment contracts to workers because they either don't want to save pension money for them or to be held accountable when workers are unfairly dismissed, or both of them.

“When workers pursue them in court for various reasons, the ruling is not in their favour because there is no evidence that they worked for them,” he explained.

Ntakiyimana also pointed out that the fact that there is no minimum wage puts an employer in a position to pay the worker however they please, which in most cases is a disadvantage to the worker.

He further said that the Ministry of Public Service and Labour should be questioned about the progress of setting up a minimum wage.

In 2018, the Lower Chamber of Deputies enacted a labour law that has left it to the Ministry in charge of Labour to set up a minimum wage through a ministerial order. Since then, it remains at Rwf100 per day.

**Eng. Andre Mutsindashyaka, the Secretary General of Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU)**

**SOURCE: THE NEW TIMES**

# Rwamagana: REWU representatives trained on ECDs ahead of operationalizing them at the mining and quarrying working places



The Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU)'s representatives at companies' level continue to be trained on ECD operations as they are scheduled to be built at Mining Sites across the country.

Being facilitated by ADEPE Rwanda, the training held at Deleva Hotel from 16 – 18th February 2022, attended by 45 REWU Trade union representatives in the companies operating in Eastern Province, was organized in partnership with Rwanda, Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), UNICEF Rwanda, the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) and REWU.

The training which was organized for REWU trade union representatives is focused on Early Childhood Development (ECD) program in the mining and quarry sector in Rwanda. Trade union representatives also were taken through the rights of the children and their role in protecting children from any form of abuse.

Speaking at the workshop, the Secretary General of REWU Union, Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre called on the participants to pay special attention to the training since they are going to be involved in ECDs operations as the latter are being established at the mining and quarry working places following the request made by employees especially women. The pilots ECD centres are already present at Gifurwe and NMB mines in Burera District in Northern Province.

The Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union (REWU) continues to focus on tackling child labor and promoting child protection at working place in partnership with UNICEF.

The initiative is geared up by Rwanda Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board (RMB), UNICEF Rwanda, NCDA and REWU.

Therefore, in order to implement the ECDs and monitor their performance, it is important that the participating union leaders are provided with knowledge on the functioning of the ECDs to increase the capacity of the program implementation Monitors as well as its sustainability.

In the recent interview with Eng. Mutsindashyaka Andre, REWU Secretary General, the Trade Union is currently working with mine & quarry companies, and various partners to build the capacity among Trade union leaders who are the union focal persons at companies to better understand their responsibilities in the operation of the ECDs at the working place.

He argues that the idea of advocating for the Establishment of ECDs in the mining and quarry companies was developed in order to protect the rights of the Children and women mothers while at work so that the child could find a place to stay and be cared for. On the other hands the income earned by women employee will be increased as the production increase too.

In mining sector, mine workers are remunerated by what they have produced, therefore it is very crucial that women need special facilities at working place for allowing them better working conditions including ECD at working places.

“Before, we used to face some cases of children dropping out of school to take care of their siblings or work to increase the income from production of their parents, while their parents were at work either in Mining, Quarrying, businesses such as laying bricks, sugar cane businesses, cross-border business, etc.... Although this challenge still exists in some companies / cooperatives that violate the law prohibiting that, we are confident that the efficient operation of ECDs will lead to a complete eradication of the problem in at working places.” Eng. Mutsindashyaka said.



Yamina Karitanyi  
@YKaritanyi



Thank you for your crucial contribution to Rwanda's Mining sector. We are excited to see women play an even more important role, taking on various responsibilities throughout the value chain, and we wish them all a very happy International Women's Day! 🥰🥰

Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union @RewuRwanda - Mar 8

On this International Women's Day, #IWD2022 🌟, we consider the role that women & men in mining play in the rehabilitation of the workplace to protect the environment & to address the effects of climate change. Happy International Women's Day @YKaritanyi @FRwanyindo @EnvironmentRw

**Happy  
International  
Women's Day**



**REWU**  
RWANDA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY WORKERS UNION



"Gender equality to address  
Climate Change"



# WHAT IS SAID ON INTERNET



Fanfan Rwanyindo.K @FRwanyindo · Feb 19

Good job @RewuRwanda

Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union @RewuRwa... · Feb 18

The #Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union 's representatives at companies' level continue to be trained on ECD operations as they are scheduled to be built at Mining Sites across the country.: [rewu.org.rw/?p=762](http://rewu.org.rw/?p=762) @Mines\_Rwanda @kNOwChildLabour @RwandaLabour @unicefrw



Purva Gupta · 1st

Global March Against Child Labour | Child Labour and Educa...

Reshared from Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union · 1mo ·

Mobilisation efforts in Rwanda under the Africa Virtual March Against Child Labour. Thank you Rwanda Extractive Industry Workers Union, your efforts are inspiring. Global March Against Child Labour



## March Against Child Labour



**All Children must  
be at school**

**GLOBAL MARCH**

Against Child Labour  
Centre of Trabajo Infantil



**REWU**

## **MISSION**

The mission is to privilege ways to bring together workers of extractive industry, to defend their interests and living in good conditions.

## **Vision**

The vision is to empower workers and their families, beneficiaries of mining fruits by improving the quality of their lives along with contributing to the attainment of social justice and sustainable development in an atmosphere of democracy and solidarity.



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